



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

California Department of Education
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

May 2006

Reminder

Statewide Student Identifiers (SSID)

SSIDs are now required for all students. Local education agencies (LEAs) must acquire new SSIDs for new students and maintain SSIDs for all existing students. Districts are responsible for obtaining SSIDs for all students in the district, including special education students whom the district has assigned to county office of education special education programs or nonpublic certified schools (NPCS) based on individualized education program (IEP) team recommendations.

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

Proposed Regulations

At the May 10, 2006, State Board of Education (SBE) meeting, the SBE approved the commencement of the rulemaking process for proposed Title 5 regulations. The 45-day comment period began on May 19, 2006, and the California Department of Education (CDE) will hear public comment on the regulations at a public hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 7, 2006, at 1430 N Street, Room 1101, Sacramento.

The CDE is proposing modifications to the regulations that would make the following changes to the testing window:

- Beginning July 1, 2008, the testing window for the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the designated achievement test (the California Achievement Tests, Six Edition Survey [CAT/6 Survey]) be narrowed from the current window of 21 days to 11 days. Specifically, the 11 days is proposed to comprise five instructional days before and after completion of 90 percent of the instructional days. This shortening of the window will enable the testing contractor to return the test results to LEAs for distribution to schools and parents earlier than they are currently receiving the results as well as reduce the disruption a longer testing window may cause.
- The designated primary language test, Aprenda 3, must be administered between March 15 and May 14 of each school year.
- Beginning July 1, 2008, the Standards-based Test in Spanish (STS) must be administered during the 10 days following the administration of the CSTs and the CAT/6 Survey. The STS will be administered during the current 21-day CST window during 2007.
- The CDE is also proposing amendments to the current STAR Program regulations to clarify and ensure consistency. For example, names of

specific tests will be removed and the designated primary language test regulations that are in Article 3 will be incorporated into Articles 1 and 2.

The proposed regulations may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/rr/>.

Science Performance Standards

At its May 10, 2006, meeting, the SBE adopted the proposed performance standards (levels) recommended by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) for the grade eight CST in science and the grade ten CST in life science. The performance standards may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr06/documents/may06item06.doc>.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

Proposed Regulations

At its March 8, 2006, meeting, the SBE adopted emergency regulations that became effective immediately. At its May 10, 2006, meeting, the SBE adopted these same proposed regulations as a permanent part of the Title 5 regulations.

The purpose of these regulations is to: (1) permit eligible adult students and K-12 districts to take the CAHSEE up to three times per school year and to take the exam in successive administrations beginning in the 2006–07 school year; and (2) specify the data that school districts are to submit to CDE regarding the local waiver process for students with disabilities and the one-year exemption for students with disabilities in the class of 2006. The regulations may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/rr/>.

Independent Evaluation of Standards and Assessment Program

At its May 10, 2006, meeting, the SBE approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an independent alignment study of California's standards and assessments system. The focus of the study

will be those assessments used to meet the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, including the STAR Program and the CAHSEE. The study will address the alignment between the assessments, academic content standards, and the academic achievement standards. A more detailed description of the study design may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr06/documents/may06item5.doc>.

Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

Proposed Regulations

At its May 10, 2006, meeting, the SBE approved the commencement of a 15-day comment period, ending on May 30, 2006, for proposed amendments to Title 5 regulations. Following a 45-day comment period and review by the Office of Administrative Law, two minor changes were made to the proposed Title 5 regulations.

The PFT regulations serve to guide districts and schools in the administration of the *FITNESSGRAM®* as California's physical fitness assessment. The proposed regulations were revised to reference the most current edition of the Third Edition *FITNESSGRAM/ACTIVITYGRAM®* Test Administration Manual. The proposed regulations were also modified to clarify that the CDE will not provide copies of the administration manual but that the manual is available for viewing at the CDE. These changes dictated that the regulations be released for a 15-day comment period. The regulations may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/rr/>.

California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

CELDT Update

The contractor for the CELDT, CTB/McGraw-Hill (CTB), is currently conducting pre-administration and scoring training workshops for CELDT. These trainings are meant for individuals who will be trainers for the

2006–07 school year. At the workshops, CTB is presenting new writing rubrics, a new scale, and new cut scores.

Data Management

California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS)

At the May 10, 2006, SBE meeting, the director of the CDE Data Management Division, Keric Ashley, provided SBE an update on the implementation of CALPADS. CALPADS will maintain statewide student assessment data, as well as any other data necessary to meet the requirements of NCLB. Within established access and privacy protocols, CALPADS will provide data to LEAs, CDE, state policymakers, and educational researchers. CALPADS is on target to be implemented in 2009.

CALPADS requires the California School Information Services (CSIS) to assist LEAs to assign and maintain a non-personally identifiable SSID for every K-12 student. In addition, California *Education Code* Section 60900 requires LEAs to retain and supply SSIDs on the STAR Program, CAHSEE, and CELDT for inclusion with the test results in CALPADS. Note that while CALPADS is to be implemented in 2009, previous years assessment results will be included at that time.

The presentation materials provided at the SBE meeting may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr06/documents/may06Item15a1.ppt>. Additional information on CALPADS may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/>.

Pre-Identification (Pre-ID) File Cleansing

CSIS has notified the CDE that CSIS will not provide Data Editing and Reporting Services for the 2006–07 school year to LEAs using Pre-ID services for the CELDT and CAHSEE. This optional service provided by CSIS was intended to improve the accuracy of the student demographic and program participation data collected through these assessments.

The cancellation of the CSIS Pre-ID Data Editing and Reporting Service does not impact the Pre-ID submission process between LEAs and the testing contractors. The CSIS process did not supplant any activity the LEA performed with the testing contractors and was strictly for data validation. LEAs are still required to send Pre-ID files directly to the testing contractor.

CDE will keep you updated regarding the status of this issue.

More information...

For more information about any of the mentioned SBE items, access the SBE agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag>.